

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Region 5 Sustainable Preservation Initiative Gains Momentum

Green Preservation Initiative
EPA Regions 5, 2 & 3

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For more information

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 continues to play a leadership role in advancing the goals of sustainable preservation and highlighting the benefits of greening existing buildings as opposed to demolition and new construction.

Greening historic communities East Coast Symposium – June 2011

In response to the feedback from the 2010 Indianapolis Symposium, Region 5 is collaborating with Regions 2 and 3 to plan a symposium to be held in Wilmington, Del., June 15-16, 2011. This symposium will continue to look at *"What Works What Doesn't and What Should Change"* but will also focus on the broader context of historic communities.

Stakeholder groups will convene to share ideas and experiences that will facilitate the sustainable restoration of historic buildings in an economically feasible manner. They will also explore the infrastructure and policy framework that communities need in place if they are to promote and encourage sustainable preservation. The ideas and concerns generated from this symposium will be elevated to policy makers so the issues can be addressed on a national scale.



EPA will convene a symposium – *"Greening Historic Communities: What Works What Doesn't and What Should Change"* in Wilmington, Del., on June 15-16, 2011. The symposium will give participants the opportunity to incorporate green preservation principles into the ongoing dialogue on sustainability.



EPA Region 5 is working with the Headquarters Office of Sustainable Communities on a technical assistance project for the city of Concord, N.H., shown above.

Future symposia

EPA Region 5 will continue to serve as a convener of stakeholders and other organizations and professionals by planning future symposia:

- *Evaluating the Inherent Sustainability of Older Buildings* – West Coast 2012
- *Update on the Status of Green Historic Preservation (Federal, State and Local)* – Chicago 2013

Guidance document

A guidance document will be compiled at the culmination of the four symposia and serve as a summary of the findings. EPA and other partners will be able to use the guidance paper as a reference tool for considering green building techniques and older buildings and their role in society.

Webinars

EPA will continue to act as leaders in the effort to increase awareness of sustainable preservation principals. One approach to achieving this goal is through outreach and communication in the form of Webinars. Some potential topics include:

- Lead paint/windows.
- Weatherization.
- Greening historic federal buildings.

Case study: Concord, N.H.

EPA Office of Sustainable Communities and Region 5 are working together on a technical assistance project for the city of Concord. The goals of this project are to identify solutions to the known barriers to achieving sustainable redevelopment of historic properties. Officials also want to identify incentives and develop tools that can be used to facilitate their sustainable redevelopment

Technical assistance/analysis of:

- Market-based barriers
Parking, lack of comparables, perception of market.
- Code-based barriers
Accessibility, life safety.
- Preservation-based barriers
Standards for materials, replacement techniques, etc.
- Sustainability measures
Energy efficiency standards, water efficiency, etc.

EPA will also compile a tool kit for Concord. This kit will be used to identify resources, policies and strategies to sustainably renovate and preserve existing buildings. The kit will include historic preservation incentives such as federal and state tax credits, energy incentives and low-income tax credits.